

States, do hereby proclaim March 2001 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 1.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the Korean
Peninsula Energy Development
Organization**

February 26, 2001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I transmit herewith the 6-month report required under the heading “International Organizations and Programs” in title IV of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–107), relating to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization. The report, which was prepared by the previous Administration, covers the period from August 13, 2000, through January 27, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations.

**Remarks Following Discussions With
President Andres Pastrana of
Colombia and an Exchange With
Reporters**

February 27, 2001

President Bush. It’s my honor to welcome a friend of our country to the Oval Office,

President Pastrana. We’ve had a very good discussion about Colombia—Plan Colombia—the renewal of a Trade Preference Act for the Andean nations to help their economies grow. President Pastrana is a courageous leader who is dealing with very difficult problems. I’m confident that with his leadership, his nation will be better off.

And Mr. President, I can’t thank you enough for taking a lead in your country, for having the heart that you have and the compassion for the Colombian people, and the ability to make tough decisions.

I explained to the President that we’re fully aware of the narcotics that are manufactured in his country but also told him that many of them wouldn’t be manufactured if our Nation didn’t use them, and we’ve got to work together to not only help Colombia but help our own country.

So, Mr. President, you’re welcome to come—if you’d like to make a few comments, you’re welcome to.

President Pastrana. Thank you, Mr. President. Once again, it is a great pleasure to be back with now-President Bush. We had the opportunity to meet in 1999 when President Bush was Governor. So once again, Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity in which we could exchange a lot of ideas of what’s happening in our country, and how can we deal with a common enemy that is narcotrafficking; that in the end, that is the one that is financing the violence in my country and maybe also in part of your country; and that we are going to put all the efforts to continue our fight, as we have done in our commitment against narcotrafficking, trying to reach a peace agreement in our country and strengthening our economy, creating new jobs and better jobs for our people.

So I want to thank you publicly, also, Mr. President, for all the help that you are giving us and the U.S. to get forward in this process.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. A couple questions.

Colombia

Q. Mr. President, would you be part of the negotiation table—will the U.S. be part of the negotiation table as President Pastrana—

President Bush. No, we will not be.